

Regular Meeting
July 12, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 12, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Wayne Goodwin, George Jones, Harry Lee Winslow.

Chairman Belfield called the meeting to order and Commissioner Goodwin presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the June meetings minutes and the following tax releases and budget amendment, was approved.

ayes 7

no 0

Tax Releases

Ellis C&T Co	\$168.06	vehicle totaled in storm
MA Jones	\$188.93	listed in Perquimans Co
JL Martin	\$351.21	taxed at wrong value
OB Sykes	\$215.19	vehicle sold

Budget Amendment

4268 Sr.Center	increase	\$1317	grant money for health promotions
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9:00 a.m. - Presentation of 2004-05 Secondary Roads Improvement Program

Division Engineer for the Department of Transportation Don Connor, announced his retirement after 34 years with DOT and thanked the County for its support. He also introduced Anthony Roper and Sterling Baker who presented the Secondary Roads Improvement Program proposal. The allocation is for \$210,000 and includes work on Emperor Landing Road, completion of West Bear Swamp Road and the first phase of work on Sycamore Road.

James Wilson, Ken Peters and Phil Robbins from Arrowhead Beach asked about paving for pima Trail and other roads in Arrowhead placed on the State road system in recent years. Mr. Roper explained that the roads are not yet listed for paving since the roads have been placed on the State system since the last re-rating of roads has been done. Authorization to re-rate roads is expected next year, which takes place about every four years.

Commissioner Alligood thanked DOT for its drainage work in Cape Colony, which has been a big help, especially since the storm damage. Chairman Belfield asked that DOT investigate a large pothole on the Chowan River Bridge.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the Secondary Roads Improvement Plan be accepted as presented by the following resolution.

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Resolution

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session on Monday, July 12, 2004, met with representatives of the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the DOT representatives presented the proposed Secondary Roads Improvement Program for 2004-2005, including improvements to Emperor Landing Road, West Bear Swamp Road completion and the first phase of work on Sycamore Road; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed 2004-2005 Secondary Roads Program as advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, by this resolution, approves the 2004-05 Secondary Roads Program as submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Resolved today, July 12, 2004.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Inspections/Planning Report

Inspector Holly Colombo reported that the mobile home task force program ended May 30 with 18 storm damaged and three not storm-related mobile homes being removed from Chowan County through this project.

A final draft of the hazard mitigation plan has been submitted to the State for its review and should be available for presentation to the Commissioners in August or September.

County staff is meeting with community and civic organizations to discuss development issues.

Inspections conducted 303 inspections in June and collected \$10,198 in permit fees. Eight junk cars were removed in June.

Emergency Medical Services Plan

Mike Cobb with the State Office of Emergency Medical Services presented the EMS System Certificate to Chairman Belfield and Doug Belch and Patty Madry, representing Chowan EMS. This certificate was presented to the County following the approval of the County's submitted Emergency Medical Services Plan, as required by State law.

Voting Delegate Designation to the Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that Chairman Belfield be designated Chowan County's voting delegate to the Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference.

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Southeastern Chowan County Sewer Feasibility Study

Engineer Bill Diehl presented the final draft of a study to examine the feasibility of installing sewer service in the Cape Colony and Country Club areas of Chowan County. The proposed development at Sandy Point was not included since it is in preliminary stages. Three options were examined: a conventional gravity sewer system, a pressure collection system and a vacuum collection system. The gravity system is the most expensive to install, estimated at \$32 million. The pressure or vacuum systems are estimated at \$19 million. These numbers include expanding the town spray field facility for a joint system. No numbers have been gathered on the costs to develop a separate spray field, probably located in the southeastern section of the County.

Mr. Diehl estimated this to be a four-year project from identifying funding, development of the design, construction and beginning operations.

An application for funding assistance is being considered by the NC Rural Center.

Mr. Diehl described the pressure pump system with an electric pump at each home and the vacuum system with a tank/vault serving multiple homes. He suggested the County might consider setting up a sanitary sewer service district to maintain the system.

Commissioner Alligood talked about the advantage of the County constructing its own spray field on the southeastern side of the County, to allow more capacity for future development and county control. The possibility of the Sandy Point development makes this idea more appealing.

Mr. Copeland said that funding inquiries have begun and a rate study is the logical next step. He is encouraged by conversations with the USDA, the Rural Center and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund concerning loan and grant funding possibilities.

After the rate study is completed, public meetings will be scheduled to present the proposal.

Water System Generators

Mr. Diehl reported that the generators to storm-proof the Water System is under construction.

Appointment of Finance Officer

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the following resolution was approved appointing Lisa S. Jones as Chowan County Finance Officer.

ayes 7

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Resolution

WHEREAS, Lisa S. Jones graduated from Chowan College with a degree in business administration; and,

WHEREAS, Lisa S. Jones served as Administrative Assistant for the Department of Social Services for thirteen years and Assistant to the Finance Officer for six years; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones has successfully completed courses of study in local government from the Institute of Government; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones has performed admirably as Assistant to the Finance Officer, and among her accomplishments are included:

- a more detailed budget presentation for both Commissioners and the public,
- a revised and improved purchasing control system, and
- an improved fixed assets inventory system.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby acknowledge that Lisa S. Jones is qualified as Finance Officer of Chowan County; and does officially acknowledge her superior work performance to date; and,

FURTHER, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, by this Resolution, appoints Lisa S. Jones as Finance Officer of Chowan County, effective today, July 12, 2004.

Adopted today, July 12, 2004.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

The Clerk received the oath of office.

Mrs. Jones introduced Kim B. Smith, Assistant to the Finance Officer.

Authorization to Pay Overtime

The County Personnel Policy is presently being revised and it is hoped to have it ready for review by the Finance Committee and to the Board of Commissioners by September.

One particular issue evidenced by the hurricane was that many of the County employees are not eligible for overtime pay because they are exempt by the Fair Labor Standards Act. It is common policy that these employees not be considered exempt from overtime pay in the event of a federally declared disaster, when employees may be called upon to work two or three continuous days at storm shelters and/or recovery centers, without relief. It is almost impossible to grant that much compensatory time off without disrupting operations. FEMA officials recommended that an amendment be made to the County's personnel policy to allow such overtime.

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the County authorized the County Manager to grant overtime pay to employees normally exempt from overtime in the case of emergencies or federally declared disasters when employees are required to work long continuous hours.

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Appointment - Senior Tarheel Legislature Alternate

Commissioner Downum moved that Rev. Jim Huskins be appointed Chowan County's Senior Tarheel Legislature Alternate. Bill Miller is currently serving as Senior Tarheel Legislature Member.

ayes 7

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Appointment - WorkForce Development Board

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that Carol Ricketts be re-appointed to the WorkForce Development Board.

ayes 7

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Resolution to Accept Grant - Governor's Highway Safety Program

The Sheriff's Department was awarded a Governor's Highway Safety program grant in the amount of \$31,800, with a local match of \$10,600, for traffic safety equipment. By motion of Commissioner Downum, the Board approved a resolution to accept the grant.

ayes 7

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding; and that Commissioners of Chowan County has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS of CHOWAN COUNTY in open meeting assembled in the Town of Edenton, North Carolina, this 12th day of July 2004, as follows:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and
2. That Sheriff Fred Spruill is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$42,400 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; and
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$10,600 as required by the project contract; and
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for

other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; and,
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted today, July 12, 2004 by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Update Presentation of Cemetery Survey

Carrie Byrum and Beth Elliott continue to work on the survey of cemeteries in Chwan County. They presented an update, including more than 5000 graves in 180 cemeteries. The survey will be available for use by the public.

Civil War Trail Program

Peter Rascoe presented a proposal for Chowan County to participate in the Civil War Trail Program. One site will be in the Town of Edenton and the second site proposed will be to commemorate the 1864 Battle of Wingfield in the Hendrix Park at Cannons Ferry.

The Tourism Development Authority and the Edenton Historic Commission will pay the cost to participate in the program.

Commissioner Cole made a motion that the County approve the location of the Civil War Trail marker at Cannons Ferry.

ayes 7

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Economic Development Report

Richard Bunch reported that he attended the State Economic Development Association meeting two weeks ago, and, also that Chowan County has been visited by three potential clients in recent weeks. He also announced that a client is expected to make a commitment to locate in Chowan County within the next few weeks.

Manager's Report

Cliff Copeland distributed copies of an article in "New Urban News" about the proposed Sandy Point project. He also announced that the NC Legislature has passed legislation allowing the establishment of "urban waterfront districts", which will provide for the construction of homes closer than the current setback limit to the waterfront, as long as all criteria are met or surpassed by the construction. This legislation will allow for the planned construction of the Sandy Point project to proceed in compliance with CAMA regulations.

Schedule Special Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 23 at 6:00 pm to consider a land use plan amendment designating 500 acres on the Albemarle Sound from "limited transition" designation to a "new urban waterfront area" designation, by motion of Commissioner Jones. ayes 7

no 0

Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk